

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 12, 13, and 14 are canceled. Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 15-21 are amended. Claims 1-11, 15-21 are now pending in the application.

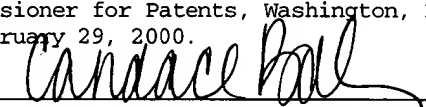
5 In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN

Dated: February 29, 2000

By: 

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